

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

APPLICANT:	S. Fujii et al.	CONF. NO.:	3017
U.S. SERIAL NO:	10/068,414	EXAMINER:	B. Menberu
FILED:	February 6, 2002	GROUP:	2625
FOR:	IMAGE SENDING METHOD AND IMAGE SENDING DEVICE		

Commissioner for Patents
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Sir:

AMENDMENT

Applicants are in receipt of the Office Action dated November 26, 2008 of the above-referenced application. Please amend the application as follows:

Amendments to the claims are reflected in the listing of claims which begins on page 2 of this paper.

Remarks begin on page 7 of this paper.

Amendments to the claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of claims:

Claim 1 (currently amended): An image sending method comprising the steps of:

selecting and setting a sending mode for sending image data from plural types of sending modes, wherein the sending mode for sending image data is selected and set from the plural types of sending modes based on sending destination information which is inputted or selected by a user, the plural types of sending modes respectively relating to different transmission protocols;

selecting and setting an index of an image quality for the image data to be sent from plural indices of the image quality common to the plural types of sending modes;

setting a resolution corresponding to the selected index of the image quality and the selected sending mode; and

sending the image data of the selected resolution by the selected sending mode,
wherein the resolution corresponding to the index of the image quality and the sending mode differs from one sending mode to another and differs from one image quality to another in each of the plural types of sending modes.

Claim 2 (previously presented): The image sending method set forth in claim 1, wherein:

the resolution corresponding to the selected index of the image quality is set by referring to a resolution setting table which indicates correspondence between (i) the index which is a single or plural indices of the image quality common to the plural types of sending modes and (ii) a range of applicable resolutions of each sending mode.

Claim 3 (original): The image sending method set forth in claim 2, wherein:

the image quality of the image data to be sent is set according to the index which is selected by a user from a plurality of displayed indices.

Claim 4 (canceled)

Claim 5 (previously presented): The image sending method set forth in claim 1, wherein:
the image data is processed to match the set resolution.

Claim 6 (previously presented): The image sending method set forth in claim 1, wherein:
the image data is created by reading an image, so as to match the set resolution.

Claim 7 (currently amended): An image sending device comprising:
input means for enabling a user to input or select sending destination information;
sending mode setting means for selecting and setting a sending mode for sending image data from plural types of sending modes, wherein said sending mode setting means selects and sets the sending mode based on the sending destination information inputted or selected through the input means, the plural types of sending modes respectively relating to different transmission protocols;

image quality setting means for selecting and setting an index of an image quality for the image data to be sent from plural indices of the image quality common to the plural types of sending modes; and

resolution setting means for setting a resolution corresponding to the index of the image quality set by said image quality setting means and the sending mode set by said sending mode setting means,

wherein the resolution corresponding to the index of the image quality and the sending mode differs from one sending mode to another and differs from one image quality to another in each of the plural types of sending modes.

Claim 8 (original): The image sending device set forth in claim 7 wherein:

said resolution setting means refers to a resolution setting table which stores a range of applicable resolutions of each sending mode, with a corresponding index which is a single or plural indices of the image quality common to the plural types of sending modes.

Claim 9 (original): The image sending device set forth in claim 8, further comprising:
display means for displaying the plural indices; and
input means for enabling a user to input one of the plural indices, wherein:
said image quality setting means sets the image quality according to the index which is
inputted by the input means.

Claim 10 (canceled)

Claim 11 (original): The image sending device set forth in claim 7, further comprising:
image data processing means for processing the image data based on the resolution set by
said resolution setting means, into a form suitable for the sending mode set by said sending mode
setting means.

Claim 12 (original): The image sending device set forth in claim 7, further comprising:
image reading means for reading an image based on the resolution set by the resolution
setting means, so as to create image data.

Claim 13 (currently amended): An image sending device comprising:
a sending destination input section for enabling a user to input or select sending
destination information;
a sending route setting section for selecting and setting an image sending route from
plural image sending routes, wherein said sending route setting section selects and sets the image
sending route from the plural image sending routes based on the sending destination information
inputted or selected through the sending destination input section;
an image quality setting section for selecting and setting an index of an image quality of a
sending image from plural indices of the image quality common to the plural image sending
routes;
a processing contents setting section for setting processing contents which corresponds to
the image sending route set by said sending route setting section and the index of the image

quality set by said image quality setting section, where the processing contents corresponding to the index of the image quality and the sending route differ from one image sending mode route to another and differ from one index of the image quality to another in each of the plural image sending routes;

an image processing section for processing the image to create the sending image based on the processing contents set by said processing contents setting section; and

an image sending section for sending the sending image via the image sending route set by said sending route setting section.

Claim 14 (original): The image sending device set forth in claim 13, wherein: the image quality set by said image quality setting section is commonly used for the plural image sending routes.

Claim 15 (original): The image sending device set forth in claim 14, further comprising:

a storage section for storing a processing contents setting table which stores processing contents corresponding to each of the plural image sending routes and the image quality.

Claim 16 (original): The image sending device set forth in claim 15, further comprising:

a display section for displaying the image quality which exists as plural image qualities;
and

an input section for enabling a user to input one of the plural image qualities, wherein:
said image quality setting section selects and sets the image quality inputted through the input section.

Claim 17 (canceled)

Claim 18 (previously presented): The image sending method set forth in claim 1, wherein the plural types of sending modes include at least one of a facsimile mode, a scan to email mode, and a scan to FTP mode.

Claim 19 (previously presented): The image sending device set forth in claim 7, wherein the plural types of sending modes include at least one of a facsimile mode, a scan to email mode, and a scan to FTP mode.

Claim 20 (previously presented): The image sending device set forth in claim 13, wherein the plural image sending routes include at least one of a telephone line, the Internet, an intranet, an extranet, CON, COM, LAN, ISDN, VAN, CATV, VPN, a telephone line network, a mobile network, and a satellite network.

REMARKS

Claims 1-3, 5-9, 11-16, and 18-20 are pending in the application. Independent claims 1, 7, and 13 have been amended to recite that an index of an image quality is selected and set from plural indices of the image quality common to the plural types of sending modes/routes, and the resolution corresponding to the index of the image quality and the sending mode/route differs from one sending mode/route to another and differs from one image quality to another in each of the plural types of sending modes/routes. The amendments are fully supported by the application as originally filed (see, e.g., specification at page 20, second paragraph to page 24, first paragraph).

As amended, independent claim 1 recites that an index of an image quality is selected and set "from plural indices of the image quality common to the plural types of sending modes" (*see also* independent claims 7 and 13). For example, as described on page 21, lines 12-18 of the specification, image quality levels such as coarse, standard, fine, etc. are **common** to all sending modes. Further, independent claim 1 recites that "the resolution corresponding to the index of the image quality and the sending mode differs from one sending mode to another and differs from one image quality to another in each of the plural types of sending modes." For example, as described on page 21, lines 2-7 of the specification, resolutions differ even when the same image quality is set for different sending modes.

According to the Applicants' claimed invention, a user can set a resolution corresponding to the sending mode and the selected index of the image quality (see specification at page 21, lines 18-23), thus achieving the objective of easily setting the resolution for plural types of sending modes/routes (see specification at page 3, lines 17-22).

Claims 1-3, 5-9, 11-16, and 18-20 were rejected under 35 USC §103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent 5,488,483 to Murayama et al. ("Murayama") in view of U.S. Patent 5,719,686 to Sakamoto et al. ("Sakamoto"), and further in view of U.S. Patent 6,614,551 to Peek. This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Regarding the rejection of independent claims 1, 7, and 13 over the proposed combination of Murayama in view of Sakamoto, and further in view of Peek, the proposed combination does not teach or suggest an image sending method and device in which an index of an image quality is selected and set from plural indices of the image quality common to the plural types of sending modes/routes, and the resolution corresponding to the index of the image quality and the sending mode/route differs from one sending mode/route to another and differs from one image quality to another in each of the plural types of sending modes/routes.

On page 3, last two lines to page 4, lines 1-2 of the Office Action of 11/26/2008, it was admitted that the Murayama reference does not teach or suggest the claim limitation: "wherein the resolution corresponding to the index of the image quality and the sending mode differs from one sending mode to another and differs from one image quality to another," as previously recited in independent claim 1 (*see also* independent claims 7 and 13).

On page 4 of the Office Action of 11/26/2008, FIG. 25 of Sakamoto, and column 14, lines 53-56; column 5, lines 47-52; and column 8, lines 44-63 were cited allegedly for disclosing that resolution corresponding to an index of image quality differs from one sending mode to another, and differs from one image quality to another.

In particular, on page 4, second paragraph of the Office Action of 11/26/2008, it was alleged that the resolution varies "from one image quality to another" in Sakamoto, where the ON/OFF state of the resolution lamps (superfine and fine) was cited as allegedly corresponding to the index of image quality.

Referring to FIG. 25 of Sakamoto, for a monochrome page, the resolution differs depending on the ON/OFF state of the superfine lamp and the fine lamp. However, for a color page, the resolution remains constant regardless of "image quality" (see column 14, lines 59-61 of Sakamoto).

Independent claims 1, 7, and 25 (as amended) recite that the resolution corresponding to the index of the image quality and the sending mode/route differs from one sending mode/route to another and differs from one image quality to another in each of the plural types of sending modes/routes.

In contrast, in Sakamoto, the resolution does not differ from one image quality to another "in each of the plural types of sending modes" as claimed. Instead, the resolution remains constant for a color page regardless of the ON/OFF state of the superfine lamp and the fine lamp.

Further, even if Sakamoto was somehow combined with Murayama, and further taken in view of Peek, the proposed combination would not teach or suggest the Applicants' claimed invention. For example, in Sakamoto, the image quality is adjusted by making the resolution constant and switching the quantization table according to the JPEG method. Therefore, even if Sakamoto was combined with Murayama (and/or Peek), the proposed combination would not teach or suggest that the resolution differs from one image quality to another in **each** of the plural types of sending modes *as claimed*.

It is believed that the claims are in condition for immediate allowance, which action is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

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